

# Examiner's amendment

Docket No.: ANA-5976

Serial No.: 10/755,850

In the Claims:

cor 4/09

1-7 (Canceled)

1/ 8. (Currently amended) ~~The process of claim 2, wherein (a) comprises:~~ A process for preparing sevoflurane, comprising:

(a) ~~(1)~~ treating hexafluoroisopropanol with a reactant selected from paraformaldehyde and 1,3,5-trioxane in the presence of a chlorinating agent to provide chlorosevo and <sup>a</sup>the HFIP hydrolyzable precursor; and ~~(2)~~ treating chlorosevo with a fluoride reagent to give sevoflurane

(b) separating the HFIP hydrolyzable precursor from the reaction of (a);

(c) heating the separated HFIP hydrolyzable precursor with a strong protic acid at a temperature effective to convert the HFIP hydrolyzable precursor to HFIP; and (d) isolating the recovered HFIP.

2/ 9. (Currently amended) ~~The process of claim 2, wherein (a) comprises:~~ A process for preparing sevoflurane, comprising:

(a) ~~(1)~~ treating the HFIP feed with a methylating agent to give sevomethyl ether, chlorinating the sevomethyl ether to give chlorosevo and <sup>a</sup>the HFIP hydrolyzable precursor, and treating chlorosevo with a fluoride reagent to give sevoflurane

(b) separating the HFIP hydrolyzable precursor from the reaction of (a);

(c) heating the separated HFIP hydrolyzable precursor with a strong protic acid at a temperature effective to convert the HFIP hydrolyzable precursor to HFIP; and (d) isolating the recovered HFIP.

3/ 10. (Original) A process for preparing chlorosevo from HFIP, comprising: (a) alkylating an HFIP feed to give sevomethyl ether; (b) chlorinating sevomethyl ether to give a mixture comprising chlorosevo and other HFIP hydrolyzable precursors; (c) isolating chlorosevo from the mixture to provide a chlorosevo-depleted mixture; (d) heating the chlorosevo-depleted mixture with a strong protic acid at a temperature effective to convert the other HFIP